Honorarium paid by Railways to its employees for printing railway time tables

2211. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways pay some honorarium to its employees for printing of Railway Time Tables twice a year;

(b) if so, the details of such payment made to each Railway Zone and Board during 1987, 1988 and 1989;

(c) the income earned from the sale of time-tables and advertisements separately during 1987, 1988 and 1989;

(d) whether Government propose to stop the practice of printing the time tables twice a year to give relief to travelling passengers;

(e) whether the changes during each session of time-table is proposed to be printed through supplementaries to make these available on nominal charges; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) The income by sale and advertisements of zonal railway Time Tables for the years 1987-88 and 1988-89 is as under:—

	1987-88	1988-89
By Sale		
(after payment of commission)	Rs. 47 Lakhs	Rs. 55 Lakhs
By advertisements	Rs. 28 Lahhs	Rs. 23 Lakhs

The November '89 Time Tables is still in force till the end of April '90 and therefore the corresponding figures for 1989-90 cannot be compiled at this stage.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Undue favour shown by NCCF to Oswal Agro Mills

2212. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Oswal Agro Mills allowed additional 15 per cent discount to Haryana Consumer Federation in February, 1989 as against 8 per cent discount to NCCF on Tarun Soap and violated terms of their agreement with NCCF in supplying Tarun Soap to H. P. Civil Supplies Corporation directly;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Haryana Consumer Federation complained to NCCF on 27th December, 1988 about supplying underweighed soap and fraudulent replacement of wrapper showing the manufacturing date of March, 1988 as December, 1988;

(c) whether there are serious allegations against the Assistant Manager (MER), NCCF, Hqrs. for having received huge kickbacks from the manufacturer in suppressing their large scale malpractices; and

(d) whether Government propose to enquire into this matter, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) NCCF have reported that M/s. Oswal Agro Mills Ltd. allowed additional 15 per cent discount, at their instance only to Haryana Consumer Federation in February, 1989 as compensation for complaints regarding quality and weight in addition to normal 8 per cent discount agreed with NCCF in the formal agreement. As NCCF did not make payment to M/s. Oswal Agro Mills for supplies made in Himachal Pradesh the Oswal Agro Mills had, reportedly, offered further supplies of Tarun Soap directly to H.P. Civil Supplies Corporation. There had been no violation of the agreement in these transactions.

(b) Yes, Sir. NCCF stopped dealing with M/s. Oswal Agro Mills thereafter.

(c) and (d) A complaint against the Assistant Manager of NCCF has been received and it is under investigation by NCCF.

Irregularities in the sale of Bardana in Bhiwani Branch of NCCF

2213. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pending investigation by the CBI in the case relating to irregularities in the sale of Bardana in Bhiwani Branch of N.C.C.F. an Assistant Manager-II was transferred from Delhi to Patna after initially imposing a minor penalty in the departmental enquiry; whether the CBI has concluded its investigation and if so, the details thereof; if not, what action is proposed to be taken by NCCF against the involved Assistant Manager;

(b) whether it is also a fact that said Assistant Manager was transferred from Patna to Calcutta and from Patna to Jaipur for his alleged involvement in scandalous deals while working in Patna;

(c) whether it is a fact that the said Assistant Manager now working in Jaipur Branch has been allegedly involved in large scale corruption/malpractices in the disposal of Janata Handloom products to Primary Cooperatives of Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what action has been taken against the involved Assistant Manager?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) The case relating to irregularities in the sale of Bardana in the Bhiwani Branch of NCCF was referred by the Department of Civil Supplies to the CBI initially in December, 1986 for investigation. The CBI, however, did not take up the investigation for some reasons. They were again requested by the Department of Civil Supplies in March, 1987 to reconsider their stand and accept the case for investigatin. The CBI ultimately returned the case in May, 1987 on the plea that the employees of the NCCF were not public servants within the meaning of Section 21 of the Indian Penal Code which disabled them from undertaking investigation into the allegations. The NCCF had earlier initiated disciplinary actions against the Assistant Manager-II and issued charge-sheet on 25.2.84. After the completion of the departmental proceedings, a minor penalty of withholding two annual increments with cumulative effect was imposed on him on 3.8.1987. He was also transferred out from Delhi to Patna.

(b) No, Sir. The Assistant Manager-II was issued a transfer order on 4.4.1989 by the Regional Manager (East) of NCCF posting him from Patna to Calcutta, for administrative grounds. He represented against this order to the Head Office, which modified the transfer order on 27.4.89 posting him to Jaipur.

(c) No complaint has come to notice.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (c).

Setting up of sugar mills in Maharashtra in Co-operative sector

2214. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to the replies to Unstarred Questions 457 and 555 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th March, and state:

(a) what is the number of pending sugar factory projects for the clearance of licences; and

(b) what is the total number of Co-operative Sugar Factories Project from Maharashtra pending for the clearance of necessary licences and what step Government would take to clear such licences and by when?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) and (b) 108 applications